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rare teratological specimen, and it will be preserved in the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Germantown, Pa.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

Parmelia furfuracea used in Embalming.—In the note on "Mummy Garlands," in the November number of the BULLETIN, mention is made of the identification of *Parmelia* (*Evernia*) *furfuracea* among the plants of the royal coffins. But this lichen was found in an Egyptian coffin many years ago, and identified by Prof. Tuckerman. I quote from an article on the Flora of the White Mountains by J. W. Dawson in the *Canadian Naturalist* for April, 1862, page 88:

"Not long ago we unrolled in Montreal an Egyptian mummy preserved in the oldest style of embalming, and found that, to preserve the odor of the spices, quantities of a lichen (*Evernia furfuracea*) had been wrapped around the body, and had no doubt been imported into Egypt from Lebanon or the hills of Macedonia for such uses. Yet the specimens from this old mummy were at once recognized by Professor Tuckerman as identical with this species as it occurs in the White Hills and on Katahdin, in Maine."

New Bedford, Mass.

H. W.

The Lignified Snake.—I have seen the original of the famous "snake lignification" from Brazil, and I possess an electrotype from it, given to our Museum by His Excellency the Brazilian Minister. I am convinced there is no snake in the case. I cannot take the time at this moment to give the two credible explanations which suggest themselves. But I shall be much surprised if the Botanical Society of France is found to endorse the account of M. Olivier in *La Nature*.

Cambridge, Mass.

A. GRAY.

Ilex with Yellow Berries.—Prof. John Robinson sends me from Essex Co., Mass., a sprig of *Ilex verticillata* with bright yellow berries.

Providence, R. I.

W. W. BAILEY.

The Tuckahoe.—The articles in the BULLETIN on tuckahoe, the "Indian bread," have induced me to look up a specimen which I obtained at Asbury Park, some seven or eight years ago. It was got when cutting down some trees and removing the roots. The specimen was found, I should think, about eighteen inches from the surface, in yellow ferruginous sand, and encircling the root of an oak, the root being five-eighths of an inch thick. The specimen is six inches long, and two inches at its thickest part. It has a brown epidermis, and looks wonderfully like a baked sweet potato. The interior flesh or pectine presents exactly the appearance of white flour after being mixed with water and thoroughly dried. It is very hard. I published in the local paper at the time a description under the title: "Tuckahoe, or Indian-bread."

A fact not published is this: In 1862, when taking out the stump of a willow-oak (*Quercus phellos*) from my garden at Keyport, N. J., I found among the roots quite a quantity of tuckahoe; several speci-

mens, I should think enough to fill a quart solid. It was soft, and inside had the color and consistency of stiff starch when cold. This, too, was in yellow ferruginous sand.

Freehold, N. J.

S. LOCKWOOD.

Preservative for Fungi.—Three years ago I invented what I think a very good and cheap liquid for the preservation of fungi, composed of the following ingredients: $4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of common salt; 5 ounces of pulverized alum, and 1 quart of white wine vinegar. Mix thoroughly and keep in a wide-mouthed glass jar. Brush off any dirt that clings to the fungus, and drop the freshly gathered plant into the liquid.

I have beside me a large jar of plants that were collected in the summer of 1879. They are now in a perfect state of preservation. They have diminished somewhat in size, but their structure is preserved, and the larvae are effectually destroyed. The liquid often gets filled with sediment and floating particles, to free it from which I pour it off, strain it through a piece of thin muslin and return it to the plants.

Baltimore, Md.

MARY E. BANNING.

Note on Grasses.—In a letter just received from Dr. Bentham he states that *Polypogon* is restored to its former place in Agrostideae.

I will add to my notes in the November BULLETIN that *Lepturus paniculatus*, Nutt., is a *Schedonnardus*, Steud., and follows *Gymnopogon*. *Lepturus Bolanderi*, Thurb., is, I think, a true *Lepturus*, R. Br., and follows *Triticum*.

Philadelphia.

F. L. SCRIBNER.

Botanical Notes.—*An Electrified Lily.*—During a storm at Montmaurin, in the Upper Garonne, says *La Nature*, M. F. Laroque witnessed a curious electric phenomenon. Looking toward a clump of lilies, he saw the highest immersed in a diffused violet light, which formed an aureole around the corolla. This light lasted for eight or ten seconds. After it had ceased, he approached the lily and found, to his great surprise, that it was wholly deprived of its pollen, while the neighboring flowers were covered with it.

Night-closing in the Leaves of Purslane.—Mr. Meehan notes (*Proceedings Philada. Acad. Sci.*) that, in the list of plants having diurnal or nocturnal motion, *Portulaca oleracea* does not appear. At sundown the leaves, at other times at right angles with the stem, rise and press their upper surfaces against it. The morning expansion begins with dawn, and soon after sunrise the leaves are fully expanded. Mr. Isaac Burk has observed the same thing not only in *Portulaca*, but also in an allied plant of the West Indies, *Talinum patens*.

Rhus cotinoides.—Since its discovery by Nuttall, in the year 1819, in Arkansas, and twenty-three years later by Prof. Buckley, in North Alabama, *Rhus cotinoides*, Nutt., has not been found by any other botanist, and our knowledge of it has remained fragmentary and obscure.

After having been lost to the botanical world for fully forty years,